

July

Magic Lantern Society **NEWS 2014**



Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects



A Fun Announcement Lantern Slide

MEMBER

Research
Request

Research Assistance Request

From Terry Borton

"I'm working on an article tentatively titled "Some Outstanding Colorists of American Magic-Lantern Slides"—an attempt to give a little credit to those largely anonymous artists who contributed so much to the magic-lantern screen. I'd appreciate hearing about any information or images that Society members have on this obscure subject, and will of course give credit and acknowledgements. I'm particularly interested in color images by lecturer Dwight Elmendorf; information on colorists for Burton Holmes, Grace Nichols and Helen E. Stevenson; any colorists for Stoddard; slides by colorist A. G. Marshall; any color photographs (not illustrations) from the C. W. Briggs Co; information on Charlotte Pinkerton; staff colorists for Keystone...and any others you may know of.

Thanks in advance."

Email: TBorton@MagicLanternShows.com

Check this site for examples of those colorful slides



<https://www.toovia.com/posts/2014/may/09/0.13503.366285842854182922>

Vintage Photos Of Children Dressed As Flowers Are The Creepiest Way To Welcome Spring

A recent peek into the archives at The Field Museum in Chicago reveal that when it came to celebrating springtime flora, few people were more enthusiastic than the members of the Progressive Era's Wildflower Preservation Society.



**Boston
Massachusetts
July 10-13, 2014**



*These will
be on view*



*To you that will
be in
Boston*



*For those
that can't
make the
convention
this year*



*Look for images and
highlights of the
convention in next
month's issue of the
Magic Lantern News!*

Response to Question Posted in May Issue

Horse Drawn Wagons Transporting ML Equipment

From Gale Wollenberg

This might get you very close to what you are looking for in regards to horse drawn wagons transporting ML equipment.

Google Lewis Lindsay Dyche 1857-1915
KU museum exhibition.

Then Google Washburn University Maybee library staff and look for Martha Imparato, special collections librarian, and let her know I sent you. She can tell you all about how a former professor loaded up his horse drawn wagon with a gas fired outfit and followed the old wagon trails in Kansas stopping at the small towns to do promotional lantern shows for the college. Keep in mind that there were no real standard roads as we know them in Kansas till the 1920s. Let Martha know I sent you as they used one of my lanterns for a historical display at their art museum.

Then if you have a hankering to do similar shows about life in the west, refer to the Dover steel cuts and wood cuts reprint books and you can copy out the cuts, color them in with colored pencil, reduce them to slide size on transparency and have authentic show images from the 1800s. I have done the same.

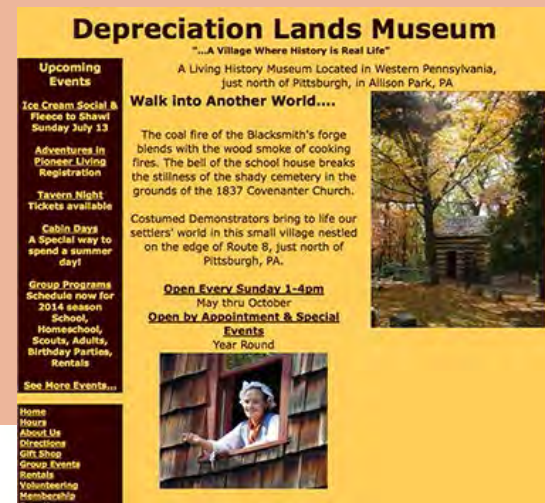
Best regards,
Gale Wollenberg

Lantern Slides Displayed

From Ron Easterday

From April though May the Pittsburgh area Depreciation Lands Living History Museum featured a display of magic lantern slides and posters as part of it's five feature events honoring the 149th anniversary of the end of the American Civil War.

<http://www.depreciationlandsmuseum.org/>



Depreciation Lands Museum
"...A Village Where History is Real Life"
A Living History Museum Located in Western Pennsylvania,
Just north of Pittsburgh, in Allison Park, PA

Walk into Another World....
The coal fire of the Blacksmith's forge blends with the wood smoke of cooking fires. The bell of the school house breaks the stillness of the shady cemetery in the grounds of the 1837 Covenant Church.

Costumed Demonstrators bring to life our settlers' world in this small village nestled on the edge of Route 8, just north of Pittsburgh, PA.

Open Every Sunday 1-4pm
May thru October
Open by Appointment & Special Events
Year Round

Upcoming Events
Ice Cream Social & Fleets to Shawl Sunday July 13
Adventures in Pioneer Living Registration
Tavern Night Tickets available
Cabin Days A Special way to spend a summer day!
Group Programs Schedule now for 2014 season School, Homeschool, Scouts, Adults, Birthday Parties, Rentals
See More Events...

Home Hours About Us Directions Gift Shop Group Events Rentals Volunteering Membership

The museum is interested in hosting a magic lantern show someday if a regional member is willing to volunteer. Contact Ron Easterday if you are interested.



Gazette Contributions Needed!



As of this writing (June 19), I do not have any contributions for the next issue of the Gazette (Spring 2014) other than some books to review. If you are doing some magic lantern research, please consider submitting an article. If you have interesting stories to tell about finding magic lanterns in antique shops, consider writing them up. Long or short articles that enhance our understanding of magic lanterns are welcome. Profusely illustrated pieces are especially desirable.

Kentwood D. Wells

Editor, The Magic Lantern Gazette

kentwood.wells@uconn.edu

Magic Lantern Used on PBS Masterpiece "Endeavor"



From Sue Truman

Dear Magic Lantern Friends,

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x1o6p5x_endeavour-s02e02-part-1-2_shortfilms

There is a bit of a magic lantern show in Season 2 of Endeavor, which premieres in a couple weeks on PBS Masterpiece. It's at the very end of the link above, which is part one. Enjoy!



At 43:16 minuets

...so we might as well pay homage to the original photo-sharing device: the magic lantern slide.



...enjoy the fruits of the pioneers' artistic labors...



images from the American Alpine Club photo library,

<https://huckberry.com/journal/posts/wilderness-lantern-slides>

Who Endorsed What?

By Terry Borton

*Question for next moth:
What man, famous in
his own time for his air
exploits but a totally
obscure lanternist then,
and totally obscure
in every sense today,
promoted what airline
that remains famous
today?*

If you guessed John L. Stoddard, the most famous lantern showman of the 1890s, you were right. Here he is promoting his Portfolio of Photographs by dissing the competition.

"It Made Him Feel Dizzy"

"Yes, ladies and gentlemen," said the professional cicerone [guide], as he twirled the globe rapidly, "I am indeed the very man to take you around the world. I know my business thoroughly, and have never failed to give entire satisfaction. I will take you around the world and show you all the wonders thereof, but as I have just finished my fourteenth tour, and have been going in one direction for so long and so fast, I shall be compelled to go the other way, as I'm getting dizzy."

After that little sendup, the ad goes on to recommend that you purchase Stoddard's own "Portfolio of Photographs."

Email: TBorton@MagicLanternShows.com

- IT MADE HIM - FEEL DIZZY



"Yes, ladies and gentlemen," said the professional cicerone, as he twirled the globe rapidly, "I am indeed the very man to take you around the world; I know my business thoroughly, and have never failed to give entire satisfaction; I will take you around the globe and show you all the wonders thereof, but as I have just finished my fourteenth tour, and have been going in one direction so long and so fast, I shall be compelled to ask you to go the other way, as I am getting dizzy."

Our Magnificent Portfolio of Photographs

Will prove a much better cicerone than any you can find, and there is no danger of your getting dizzy.

Sensation of Delight, Intense Satisfaction,

Are the sentiments created by an inspection of this superb collection of photographs.

**EVERY PICTURE IS A GEM,
EVERY SERIES AN ART GALLERY.**

The portfolio each contain sixteen magnificent views of scenes and places in every part of the world. They have all been selected by John L. Stoddard, the noted traveler and lecturer, and he has furnished with each view a full and graphic description, which adds greatly to the value and intensifies the interest of any one who looks at the photographs. No one can see one series and not want them all.



By
Sarah
Dellmann

Since October 2013, this series interviews scholars about the role of the magic lantern in their research, across the disciplines and across all possible entry points. Academic research is often based on the knowledge of collectors and amateurs – this series aims to share information the other way around. What do academics do with the information after having browsed through your collections? What do they see in the archival material and what does the lantern or lantern practices help them to explain?



In the tenth edition of this series, Charles Musser tells about his thirty-plus years of researching the lantern and his current research into the use of the stereopticon in the U.S. presidential elections in 1892 and 1896.

If you wish to share your work or know someone who should be interviewed, contact Sarah (s.dellmann@uu.nl)

Magic Lantern In Academic Research Interview of Charles Musser

Where do you work?

I have been teaching at Yale University now for twenty-three years. Before, I was a free-lance person for a couple of decades. My official position now is Professor of American Studies, Film Studies and Theater Studies. I can write that I am a Professor in the Ph.D. Program of Film and Media Studies but apparently I cannot write that I am a Professor of Film and Media Studies. Hopefully our Film Studies Program will become a Department of Film and Media Studies and that will change.

What is the topic of your research?

At present I am trying to finish a book entitled *Media Shifts and US Presidential Elections: Stereopticon/Cinema/Television/Internet*. It looks at six pivotal presidential campaigns. The first is the 1892 campaign where the stereopticon was widely employed. As many as six exhibitors were giving some version of an illustrated lecture entitled *The Tariff Illustrated for the Republicans*. They probably showed it to 350,000 people in the New York metropolitan region (New York, New Jersey and Connecticut). The tariff – the duty that was paid on imported goods—was the central issue of both the 1888 and 1892 campaigns. I have discovered the progenitor of the campaign documentary: Judge John L. Wheeler, who pioneered this illustrated lecture on the tariff in 1888. He was stumping for Benjamin Harrison, the Republican Party candidate, who won—and Wheeler was given considerable credit for making this victory possible. He and his colleagues were less

successful in 1892, when Harrison was defeated by Democrat Grover Cleveland. My second chapter deals with the 1896 election and the appropriation of cinema by the Republican and Democratic parties; however, there is still a fair amount to be said about the stereopticon in the 1896 election and beyond. Incidentally the four other chapters focus on the shift from cinema in 1948 to television in 1952 and from television in 2004 to the Internet in 2008.

How do you work? With which sources do you work?

I guess that I become inspired by some discovery or some insight, and it goes from there. Usually it takes two or three of these things which come together as the basis for an article and then, if I am lucky, a book.

The sources I use obviously vary from project to project. In this case I am relying heavily on newspapers and trade journals, at least so far as the early, stereopticon section is concerned.

When and how did the Magic Lantern appear in your research?

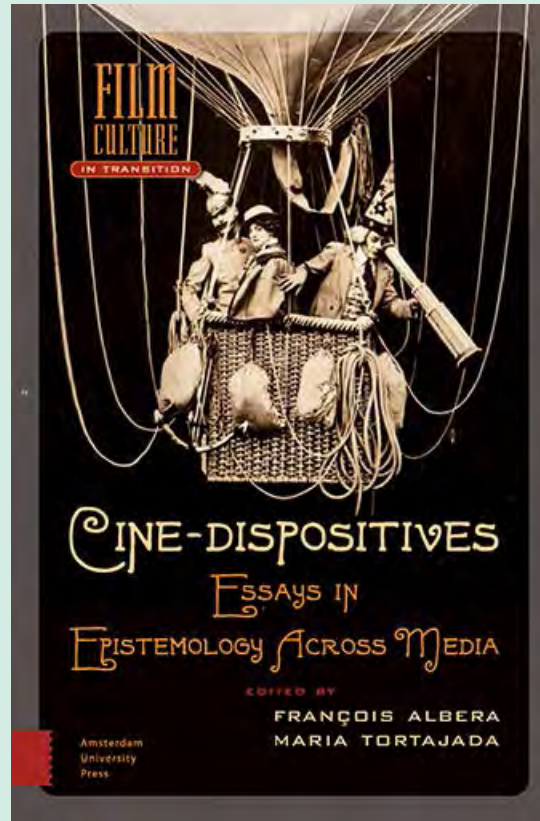
Actually one of my first insights as a young scholar was to see cinema as an extension of the magic lantern tradition. This was back in 1976-78. I had finished a film, which premiered at the Currier Gallery of Art in Manchester, New Hampshire and the director David Brooke

continued next page

Interview of Charles Musser continued

was a magic lantern enthusiast. We talked, and I was soon in touch with David Francis and David Henry in the UK. In fact, I spent quite a bit of time with David Francis at the BFI in the summer of 1977 and we talked a lot about the dynamics between the lantern and the cinema. I also connected with Richard Balzer and I published an essay, “Toward a History of Screen Practice,” which later became the opening chapter of my book *The Emergence of Cinema: The American Screen to 1907*. Certain key insights came out of my work experience as a film editor. For instance, I realized that what we call “post-production” was in the hands of the exhibitor throughout the nineteenth century. It is pretty obvious that these lantern showmen were selecting and then sequencing images in order to tell a story, to explain, to persuade, etc. Early film exhibitors did the same thing.

The move from stereopticon to cinema in 1892/1896 was thus hardly a new idea for me. But I have been eager to complicate and refine this in some ways, for instance by placing both media forms in a broader media formation that includes the newspaper and public pageantry. That is, I want to understand how the lantern and the cinema functioned within an overall media system and do so by focusing on these presidential campaigns. Moreover, the idea of screen practice has new pertinence in this world of iPads, iPhones, and large computer screens. I might add that I wrote the foreword to Terry and Deborah Borton’s just published, *Before the Movies: American Magic Lantern Entertainment and the Nation’s First Great Screen Artist*, Joseph Boggs Beale.



I also have my own essay – “The Stereopticon and Cinema: Media Form or Platform?” which will momentarily appear in François Albera and Maria Tortajada, eds. *Cine-Dispositives. Essays in Epistemology Across Media* (University of Amsterdam Press, 2014).

What do you wish to achieve with your research?

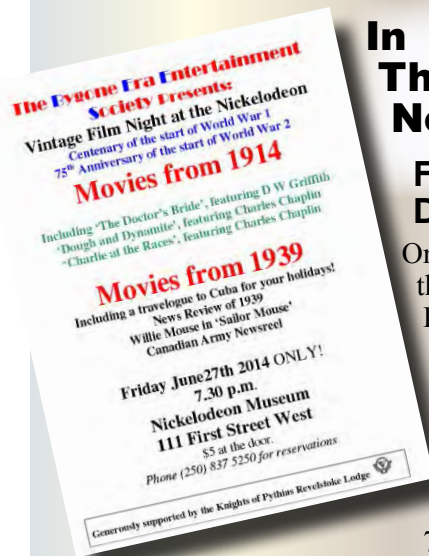
My initial goal was simply to better understand the beginnings of cinema—a mode of expression to which I had decided to dedicate my life. I was

particularly interested in the origins of film editing. Realizing that no one “invented” film editing but that what we now call film editing or image sequencing was around before cinema and that exhibitors applied and adapted these concepts to cinema. Beyond the basic goal of better understanding this early history of cinema I became interested more generally in the history of audio-visual practices and finally in the cultural, social and political history of the United States.

Why is it interesting?

I find historical research fascinating and find myself constantly surprised. Historical understanding is a little bit like putting together a puzzle—something I loved to do when I was growing up. And no surprise, it is also a little bit like film editing. One has to find the pieces and put them together in a way that makes sense and has integrity. This is often quite challenging; in fact, if it is too easy, something is wrong. One other thing that is quite rewarding is to find missing pieces to the puzzle. Finding out when Judge Wheeler died, was important and for that reason satisfying. He died in December 1893, so he wasn’t around to apply his illustrated lecture idea to the 1896 campaign.

So I am always interested in new pieces. If anyone has any slides or text for an 1888 or 1892 illustrated lecture on the tariff, please get in touch. Or any information on the use of the lantern for US political campaigns in the nineteenth century. My email is: charles.musser@yale.edu



In The Northwest

From David Evans

On Friday June 27th there was Vintage Film Night at the Nickelodeon Museum in honor of the Centenary of the start of World War 1 75th Anniversary of the start of World War 2

At the **GROUP**
June 1st meeting at the Shapes



We had the opportunity to learn about the "Crankie" from Sue Truman.

Photohistory XVI Symposium & Trade Show GEORGE EASTMAN HOUSE, ROCHESTER, N.Y., OCTOBER 10-12, 2014

If there is ever a Mecca in photographic history to make a pilgrimage to, it must be the PhotoHistory XVI Symposium taking place at George Eastman House in Rochester on Friday, October 10th to Sunday, the 12th, 2014. It has happened every three years since 1970 and is world-famous for its lectures and venue. Visitors come from all parts of the world – 200 in 2011: Europe, North and South America, Hawaii, Australia and Japan. We hope to see as many in attendance as we can cram in the doors. Rub shoulders with knowledgeable collectors and internationally recognized researchers.



filled with photographic treasures from Europe and America. Fresh photographica where you are sure to find a long sought-after collectible to add to your own collection.

Sharon Bloemendall: "We are working hard to come up with the final program and fill in the details. We have over 20 papers submitted from USA, Canada, Germany, England, and Australia covering, a broad spectrum of subjects including photographic processes, apparatus, sociology, stereoscopy, architecture, manufacturing, and space photography.

With the committee members aging there are rumors that this may be the last symposium to be pulled together. Such a drastic loss should not come to pass and we should commend that aid be garnered from other photo historical societies to keep it going.

The program consists of a reception Friday evening for a get-together for all the world-travelling speakers and guests; Saturday, the symposium runs all day at George Eastman House then a banquet in the evening at the Doubletree Hotel; Sunday we enjoy the sumptuous trade show with almost 100 tables

"The George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film, combines the world's leading collections of photography and film housed within the stately landmark Colonial Revival mansion that was George Eastman's home from 1905 to 1932. The Museum is a National Historic Landmark. George Eastman, is hailed as the father of modern photography and the inventor of motion picture film."

For more information see the Society's web site at <http://www.tphs.org>. Doubletree-Hilton Hotel registration +1 888-370-0998

<http://fastglass.wikispaces.com/Other+Camera+Sales+%26+Events>

McCord Museum of Canadian History Site

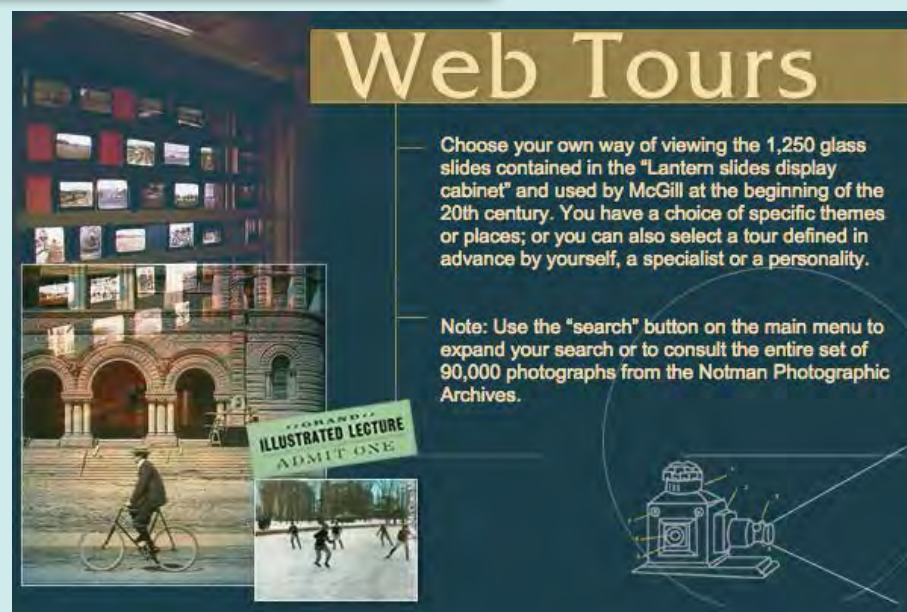
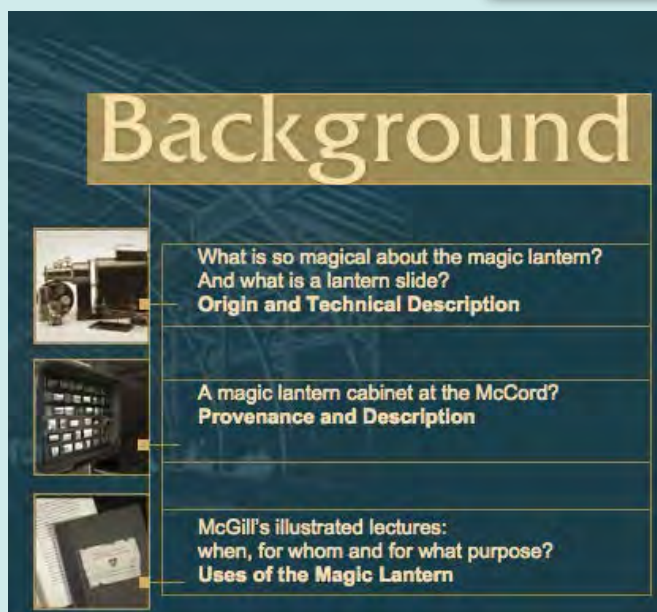
The late 1920s and early 1930s... Wilfrid Bovey, then director of McGill University's Department of Extramural Relations, provided the public with access to a set of illustrated lectures on various subjects. The lecture kits, which were mailed out to interested institutions or groups, were made up of lecture booklets accompanied by glass slides for magic lanterns.

The McCord Museum owns 15 of these booklets (which deal with the history and geography of Canada and its provinces) along with some 1 250 glass slides that accompanied them. This is your chance to learn more about them!



We invite you to indulge your heart and your mind and to view some of our 1,250 lantern slides on Canadian subjects from around the turn of the century. Discover, through this virtual display, the evocative collection of magic lantern slides that McGill University used to illustrate some of its lecture programs at the start of the 20th century.

You have a choice of three tours. Also, at any time you can create and manage your own guided tours. The equipment is yours to use as you see fit. Have a great visit!



<http://www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/en/keys/virtualexhibits/magiclantern/>

New Member from France Glad to Join

From Samuel Grosdemange

Dear Ron,

Many thanks for the packet of information received home yesterday. I downloaded several ML Gazette. Congratulation : all the work done is very high quality !

I attentively read the Charter and the Directory and was glad to see a few friends are already there (Bob Hall, Dan Malan). I already contacted two members located in France presenting myself and got nice feedbacks so I would say we are on track. I will contact soon a few members located in US and interested by historical and biblical slides to see if we can share our passion and slides.

I am living in France and I am already in contact with Terry Borton for a while. Since last 2 years I have a project to reconstruct part of the Photo Drama of Creation magic lantern show 100 years later (first show was given in 1914). So I am collecting mainly biblical and historical slides for that purpose. I did already a few shows for small attendance but I want to do so for larger audience from this summer 2014.

The main reason I wish to join the Society is to share passion or knowledge and to find more religious/historical/astronomy slides identical or similar to Photo Drama of Creation to be added to the show (I currently have a full inventory in electronic format of 500 slides and I of course miss many of them). I hope to be able to find members interested to share and help on this topic.

Looking For Religious Slides

Are there any members in the Society who may have some religious slides to sell to me or exchange for my ML show project ?

Best regards,

Sam. sgrosdemange@gmail.com



I have a list of slides (sorted by topic, mainly religious) I am looking for below :
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/asz1yr94pinagfv/AABQyYWvHYah2qe1cQtScOyVa>

A Big Thank You to the following:

Terry Borton
Sarah Dellmann
Ron Easterday
David Evans
Samuel Grosdemange
Sue Truman
Kentwood Wells
Gale Wollenberg

for contributing to this months issue.

Now it's your turn to share!

Do you have a favorite site or a collection of images you would like to share with the rest of the society?

If your answer is yes! Send site information or your images to Larry and they will be shared in the next E-pub newsletter.

E-mail Larry



Welcome New Members

Gardner, Richard

10517 S Maplewood Ave
Chicago, IL 60655-1101
(773) 251-0294
Sales Management
rgardner@pearsonpkg.com
Interests: Lanterns; Slides; Literature;
Vintage Cinema.

Iles, Chrissie

426 Broome St. # 15R
New York, NY 10013-3251
(212) 570-3617
Curator, Whitney Museum of American Art
chrissie_iles@whitney.org
www.whitney.org
Interests: Lanterns; Slides; Literature;
Kinetic Devices; Vintage Cinema

Jolly, Martyn

22 Le Hunte St Deakin
Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia
+61 2 62810141
Academic
martyn.jolly@anu.edu.au
Interests: Lanterns; Slides, Australia;
Literature, Australia.

Prenez, Jacques

47 rue de Breteuil
78670 Medan, France
+33 612 71 22 14
jacques@prenez.fr

Corrections/Updates to New Members

Townsend, John, Jacqueline and Harry

Correction to mailing address:
Clinton House
164 St. Ann's Hill
London SW18 2RS, UK

February 1910

PASTOR STOPS PANIC IN CHURCH

(By United Press Leased Wire.)
SPOKANE, Feb. 21.—A pastor's cool head and nerve is believed today to have prevented loss of life at the Methodist church at Prosser, during an illustrated lecture Saturday night, when the magic lantern exploded, throwing burning liquid over the audience. The hats of several women in the church caught fire and were burned. The rush that followed for the exits was halted by Rev. Rounds, who arose in the pulpit and quieted the excited spectators. All were taken from the church without serious injury.